

Amendments to the Claims

Please find herein below a complete listing of claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
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41. (cancelled)

42. (New) A lasted footwear for enclosing a human foot having a heel, an ankle, medial and lateral sides and a plantar surface, said lasted footwear comprising an outer shell for receiving the foot, said outer shell being made of a multi-layer composite sheet that is thermoformed for defining a foot-receiving cavity having a three-dimensional geometry that conforms to the foot, wherein said multi-layer composite sheet has a first layer of thermoformable foam having a core and first and second opposite surfaces and a second layer of fibers, and wherein one of said first and second opposite surfaces of said layer of thermoformable foam has a skin formed by exposing said one of said first and second opposite surfaces to temperatures between 200°F and 300°F.

43. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, wherein each of said first and second opposite surfaces of said layer of thermoformable foam has a skin formed by exposing each surface to temperatures between 200°F and 300°F.

44. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, further comprising an inner lining mounted in said outer shell, said inner lining being less rigid than said outer shell and having an inner surface adapted to contact the foot in use and an outer surface affixed to said outer shell.
45. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, wherein said multi-layer composite sheet comprises a further layer made of a film of polyurethane.
46. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 45, wherein said outer shell comprises an inner surface and an outer surface, and wherein said further layer forms part of said outer surface.
47. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, wherein said outer shell is thermoformed such that it comprises a heel counter for receiving the heel of the foot, an ankle portion for receiving the ankle and medial and lateral quarters for receiving the respective medial and lateral sides of the foot.
48. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 47, wherein said footwear comprises an insole for facing the plantar surface of the foot.
49. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting of carbon, kevlar, nylon, cotton, polycotton, acetate, acrylic and polyester fibers.
50. (New) A lasted footwear as defined in claim 42, wherein said thermoformable foam is selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) foam, polyethylene foam, polystyrene foam and polypropylene foam.
51. (New) A lasted skate boot for enclosing a human foot, the foot having a heel, an ankle, medial and lateral sides, a plantar surface and toes, said skate boot comprising an outer shell made of a multi-layer composite sheet that is thermoformed for defining a

foot-receiving cavity having a three-dimensional geometry that conforms to the foot, wherein said multi-layer composite sheet has a first layer of thermoformable foam having a core and first and second opposite surfaces and a second layer of fibers, and wherein one of said first and second opposite surfaces of said first layer of thermoformable foam has a skin formed by exposing said one of said first and second opposite surfaces to temperatures between 200°F and 300°F.

52. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, wherein each of said first and second opposite surfaces of said layer of thermoformable foam has a skin formed by exposing each surface to temperatures between 200°F and 300°F.
53. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, further comprising an inner lining mounted inside said outer shell, said inner lining being less rigid than said outer shell and having an inner surface adapted to contact the foot in use and an outer surface affixed to said outer shell.
54. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, wherein said outer shell is thermoformed such that it comprises a heel counter for receiving the heel of the foot, an ankle portion for receiving the ankle and medial and lateral quarters for receiving the respective medial and lateral sides of the foot.
55. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 54, wherein the foot has an Achilles tendon with an upper part and a lower part that projects outwardly with relation to the upper part, the lower part merging with the heel, wherein the ankle has a medial malleolus and a lateral malleolus, and wherein said outer shell is thermoformed in a three dimensional shape such that said heel counter is substantially cup shaped for following the contour of the heel of the foot, said upper part of said ankle portion is shaped for following the upper part of the Achilles tendon and said lower part of said ankle portion is shaped for following the lower part of the Achilles tendon.

56. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 55, wherein said outer shell is thermoformed in a three dimensional shape such that said ankle portion comprises a lateral cup-shaped section for receiving the lateral malleolus and a medial cup-shaped section for receiving the medial malleolus.
57. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 56, further comprising an insole facing the plantar surface of the foot.
58. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 57, wherein said outer shell comprises a lower skirt that is foldable for overlapping said insole.
59. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 58, wherein said lower skirt extends along a lower edge of said outer shell.
60. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 59, further comprising a toe cap for enclosing the toes of the foot.
61. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, wherein said thermoformable foam is selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) foam, polyethylene foam, polystyrene foam and polypropylene foam.
62. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting of carbon, kevlar, nylon, cotton, polycotton, acetate, acrylic and polyester fibers.
63. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 51, wherein said multi-layer composite sheet comprises a further layer made of a film of polyurethane.
64. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 63, wherein said outer shell comprises an inner surface and an outer surface, and wherein said further layer forms part of said outer surface.

65. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 64, wherein said skate boot comprises an outsole affixed to said insole.

66. (New) A lasted skate boot as defined in claim 65, wherein said skate boot comprises a tongue affixed to said toe cap, said tongue extending upwardly and rearwardly from said toe cap.

67. (New) An ice skate comprising the lasted skate boot defined in claim 54.

68. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot for enclosing a human foot, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a layer of thermoformable foam having a core and first and second opposite surfaces;
- (b) exposing one of said first and second opposite surfaces of said layer of thermoformable foam to temperatures between 200°F and 300°F in order to form a skin;
- (c) providing a multi-layer composite sheet having a layer of fibers and said layer of thermoformable foam with said skin; and
- (d) thermoforming said multi-layer composite sheet for constructing an outer shell having a foot-receiving cavity with a three-dimensional geometry that conforms to the foot.

69. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 68, further comprising, prior to step (d), placing said multi-layer composite sheet on a last and securing in place said multi-layer composite sheet.

70. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 69, further comprising positioning pressure pads over said multi-layer composite sheet for applying to said multi-layer composite sheet a pressure between 30 psi and 120 psi.

71. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 70, further comprising affixing an inner lining to an inner surface of said outer shell, said inner liner being less rigid than said outer shell and comprising an inner surface being adapted to contact the foot in use.
72. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 71, further comprising assembling an insole to said outer shell.
73. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 72, further comprising assembling a toe cap to said outer shell.
74. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 73, wherein said outer shell further comprises a lower skirt and the method further comprises folding said lower skirt over said insole and fastening said lower skirt to said insole.
75. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 74, further comprising affixing an outsole to said insole.
76. (New) A method of making a lasted skate boot as defined in claim 75, further comprising affixing a tongue to said toe cap.